

ELSAH HISTORY

No. 100

Spring 2011

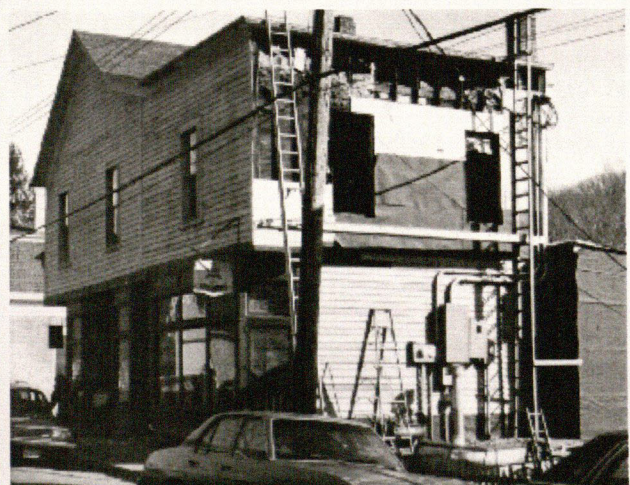
CELEBRATING "ISSUE No. 100" AND 40 YEARS FOR HISTORIC ELSAH FOUNDATION

This issue marks the 100th edition of *Elsah History* and the 40-year anniversary of the founding of Historic Elsay Foundation. To help commemorate these milestones, we have inserted a reprint of the very first edition of *Elsah History*.



In this 1984 photo, Charles Hosmer (left) and Paul Williams (right), HEF's first president and vice president, respectively, review the 1971 Articles of Incorporation for the Foundation.

Restoration projects involving public and commercial buildings in the Village are among the most significant accomplishments of Historic Elsay Foundation during its first 40 years. Shown here in various stages of restoration are: the Village Hall (above left) in 1973; Farley's Music Hall (lower left) in 2005; and the Mott building (below) in 1983.



Among these were the preservation and enhancement of the historic qualities of Elsah, the establishment of educational activities focused on the history of the Village and its surroundings, and the promotion of social events that were fun and entertaining.

On page 1, Williams also listed nine directors who made up the first HEF Board. He said these persons were selected from various groups with an interest in the Village. Williams hoped that as new Board members were elected, this balance would be maintained and, hopefully, improved.

I believe Williams would be proud of what HEF, enabled by the generous support and partnership with the residents of Elsah, has achieved in the last 40 years. First, the rescue from certain destruction and subsequent restoration of 19th Century buildings—the Village Hall, the Mott Building, and Farley's Music Hall—are outstanding accomplishments in building preservation. Next, the public lecture series and publication of this newsletter are evidence of an ongoing commitment to an educational mission. Lastly, the Home for the Holidays House Tour and the Village of Elsah Museum's Annual Bake and Book Sale are presented for the enjoyment of the entire community.

But HEF still has much more to do. Forty years have not exhausted the opportunities for building preservation in Elsah. HEF continues to provide direct and indirect support for proposals to maintain the historic appearance of structures in the Village. Furthermore, once completed, restoration is not everlasting. Aging continues in the buildings HEF has restored, and so does the need to remodel and refurbish for safety, convenience, and resistance to the elements.

HEF's sponsorship of educational programs and other community undertakings also continues to grow and evolve. The lecture series has expanded to 3-4 sessions per year. In 2010, HEF reinstated a Historic Elsah Garden Tour. To broaden our impact beyond Elsah, the Foundation is developing new collaborations with neighboring historical societies, environmental and other local organizations that share

our vision for preservation and conservation of man-made and natural habitats in the Three Rivers Region.

Completion of renovations to the newly named, Hosmer-Williams Meeting Room in Farley's Music Hall provides HEF and the Village with a much-needed and convenient venue for hosting our lectures and other public events. Catered luncheons and concessions are now routinely offered in Farley's as part of the house and garden tours. HEF also rents Farley's for weddings, village dances and other private events.

As Paul Williams hoped, HEF has been successful in recruiting new Board members who are maintaining and improving representation of a variety of interests in Elsah. As an indication of this trend, six of the current Board's twelve members were newly elected in the last two annual elections. Of the six, three are not residents of Elsah but have ties to Village.

Of course, a Board, even with added diversity and vitality, cannot by itself achieve its goals. (You knew I would bring up the money, didn't you?) There must be a sustained pledge of financial resources, as well.

Toward this end, the Board intends to make a strong push to increase HEF membership. However, at this time, we do not plan to boost membership fees, which remain quite modest.

Instead, the Board has decided to make a more concerted effort to obtain sponsorships from the business community. It is hoped that business sponsorships will supplement current sources of revenue and allow for more stability in annual event planning and budgeting. In addition, the Board believes sponsorships will provide greater visibility in the community for HEF's work.

One cannot say whether HEF will be as successful in the next 40 years as it has been in the last. However, it is my view, as the newest in what has been a long line of distinguished editors for *Elsah History*, the current Board will take some big strides in confronting future challenges to sustain the mission of the Historic Elsah Foundation.

George Provenzano

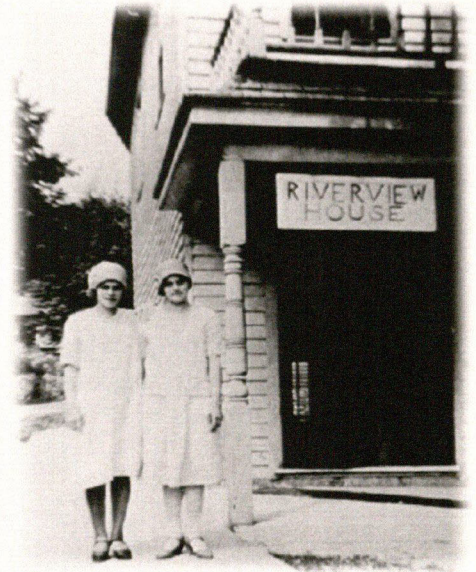
“SIGNS OF THE TIMES” – Part II

In this issue, we continue our photographic exhibit of various commercial, public, and home-made signs that appeared in historic Elsah in the 1920s and 1930s. Residents and visitors in

the Village would have spotted these signs as they proceeded up LaSalle Street from the riverfront toward the Village Hall.



In the 1920s, what had been Cosmos Keller's Riverside Hotel became a boarding house known as Riverview House. As shown in the above 1925 photo, Riverview House faces the Mississippi River at the foot of LaSalle Street.



In this 1927 photo, the Pellikaan sisters pose in front of Riverview House, which today is a private residence owned by the Great Rivers Land Trust.



A 1931 photo (left) shows the Bible House with its wooden sign hanging under the second floor balcony. The Bible House was the home of Reverend Mary Hughes, Elsah's "Bible Lady." As an ordained minister, Rev. Hughes traveled extensively throughout Illinois for her work as prison evangelist and missionary.

At 11 LaSalle Street, the Bible House is just a few hundred feet up—and on the opposite side of—LaSalle Street from Riverview House. The gabled roof above the second story was replaced by a flat roof during remodeling in the 1930s. Jane and David Pfeifer, who purchased the house in 1979, recently found the old "Bible House" sign in the basement.

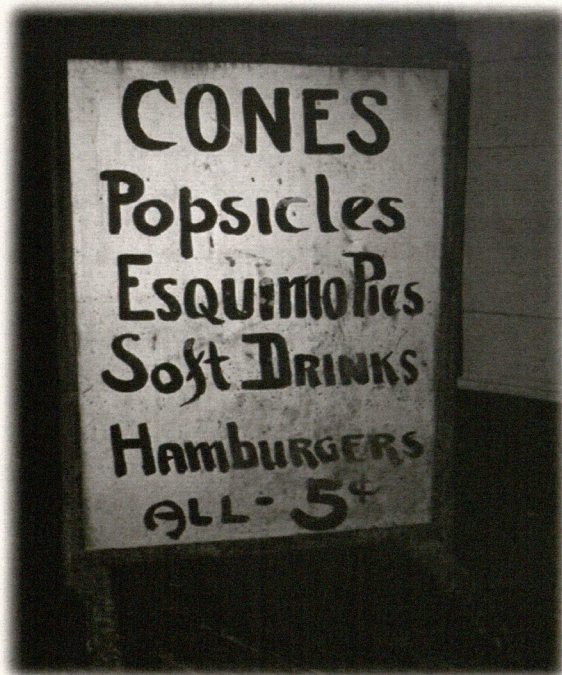


SIGNS FOR FINDING REFRESHMENTS ...

According to the 1920s photo (below) of the Keller Bakery at 20 LaSalle Street, customers were tempted to buy "Ice Cold Watermelon" for "5¢ a Slice" or an "Ice Cream Soda" also for just "5¢." The sidewalk sign (shown on the right) offers different treats—with interesting spelling—at those same low 1920s prices. The latter sign is now in the Village of Elsau Museum.



Last fall, the Keller Store once again became a restaurant, the newly-opened LaSalle Street Café. The café's menu is much expanded compared to Keller's. It now includes soups, salads, sandwiches, pizza, baked items, and hot and cold beverage choices, all at prices somewhat higher than in the 1920s, of course.



In the 1936 photo (right), Mrs. Spatz and her son Edwin are standing in front of the "Spatz Bros." grocery store at 18 LaSalle Street, right next door to Keller's. As the sign indicates, the store offered "Cigars, Candy & Jersey Ice Cream" – and more.

Bernard Maybeck, the renowned San Francisco architect who designed Principia College, frequented the ice cream concession at the Spatz store during visits to Elsau to monitor progress in the construction of the college campus (Robert M. Craig, *Bernard Maybeck at Principia College: The Art and Craft of Building*, p. 205-06).



SIGNS FOR SERVICING YOUR CAR...

In the 1920s and '30s, automobiles traveled to and from Elsau with increasing regularity. In 1931, the Spatz Brothers decided to open a "filling station" at 17 LaSalle Street, across the street from their grocery. When Bernard Maybeck heard of the Spatz' plan, he offered to design a gas station building that would blend in with the Elsau Village architecture of stone and wood. Maybeck made a crayon sketch of his proposed structure. His drawing included a traditional swinging sign bearing the Spatz name as owners (Craig, p. 206).

A June 1931 photo (below) of the newly-opened gas station shows the Spatz Brothers sold Standard Oil of Indiana's brand of Red Crown unleaded, regular gasoline. Not shown in this

photo is the colorful glass globe on top of the gas pump with the Red Crown insignia, like the one in photo on the bottom left. The sign above Edwin Spatz in the gas station photo advertises that "Super Pyro", the "Money Saving Anti-Freeze" that "Lasts Longer" is also for sale.

Petroleum refiners first added tetraethyl lead to gasoline in the 1920s as a low-cost way to increase fuel octane rating. Prior to World War II, Standard Oil of Indiana continued to distribute unleaded Red Crown as a marketing tactic that differentiated it from other brands. Automotive emissions controls that required cars to run only on unleaded gasoline did not begin until 1970.



The homemade wooden sign (below) with the name "Spatz Bros." and the Standard Oil Red Crown insignia is someone's—perhaps Maybeck's—attempt to make the hanging sign in the crayon drawing. The wooden sign is currently in the Village of Elsau Museum. The restored gasoline station building is now owned by Principia and is used as a Christian Science Reading Room.



VILLAGE OF ELSAH REPAIRS THE MANASA STREET CULVERT



In the spring of 2010, heavy downpours pushed large foundation stones away from the base of the Manasa Street Culvert (left photo). In October, the Village of Elsah hired stone masons to reset these stones and to tuck-point the joints between them with mortar. As shown in the January 2011 photo on the right, the repairs have given an almost new appearance to the structure.

The 60-foot long culvert was constructed in 1882 for the St. Louis, Jerseyville, and Springfield Railroad, which had its tracks on the embankment above Manasa Street. Manasa Street is actually an almost always dry creek bed that



runs between the residences at 66 and 70 Mill Street.

The railroad ceased to operate in Elsah in 1890. The tracks have long since been removed, and the culvert no longer serves as an aid for transportation. However, in its design and construction, the culvert represents an increasingly hard-to-find example of late 19th Century "infrastructure."

As a token of appreciation for the Village's efforts, Historic Elsah Foundation contributed \$1000 to help pay the costs of making the repairs.

HISTORIAN JUDY HOFFMAN GIVES HEF LECTURE



Photo by Dan Cruz for the Alton Telegraph

On March 3, historian and Alton resident, Judy Hoffman gave an HEF lecture on "The Underground Railroad: Up-River from Alton". Farley's was packed with over 40 people attending. Most heartening was the presence of two children, age nine and eleven-years, who came because they were studying African-American History in school.

Judy's research has revealed that Hop Hollow was a main point at which large numbers of runaway slaves escaped into Illinois from Missouri. Hop Hollow is between the bluffs about two miles upriver from Alton. In 2010, The Nature Institute dedicated a memorial (shown left) to those who sought freedom there.

JANUARY 11—FIRST MEETING OF THE 2011 HEF BOARD

At our November meeting, the Board elected officers for 2011 and three new members: Terri Cronin Darr of Godfrey, Alley Ringhausen of Jerseyville, and Sun Smith-Foret of Elsah. Tim

Tomlinson was elected President; George Provenzano, Vice President; Blair Smith, Secretary; and Jane Pfeifer, Treasurer.

The 2011 HEF Board: Left to right, front row: Alley Ringhausen, Brenda Coffman, Mary Anne Schmidt; back row: Sun Smith-Foret, Blair Smith, Paula Bradley, Tim Tomlinson, Terri Darr, Inge Mack, and Jane Pfeifer. Board members not shown: Steve Ira, Gerald Taetz, and George Provenzano.



MARIE OLESON RETIRES FROM HEF BOARD

In November, Marie Oleson retired from the Historic Elsah Foundation Board after nearly 20 years of service. Marie originally joined HEF in 1988, at the invitation of Dr. Charles Hosmer, to do some secretarial work for our group. Because Marie had a sincere interest in the Foundation's purpose and objectives, she gladly accepted.

However, Marie being Marie, we soon found her doing double duty. The secretarial work grew into "doing the books," as well as taking care of the correspondence. During the financially-challenging early 1990s, Marie's guidance as our treasurer was critically important to sustaining the foundation.

Marie's work expanded immeasurably in the years after the 1993 Great Flood when Marie took on the added burden of coordinating the restoration of Farley's Music Hall—actually "saving" Farley's from certain destruction. It was Marie who solicited the grants and made loan requests. She also checked regularly on the progress of the work crews in straightening and generally restoring the building to its early glory. During restoration, Marie practically adopted Farley's, cared for it, and decorated it inside and out.

In 2000, after 10 years of hard work for HEF, Marie felt she needed a little breather and resigned. Her respite lasted until the spring of 2003, when she was asked to rejoin the Board, this time as President.

When Marie took over the reins, new voices and new ideas were heard about the future direction of this little village. The Board reexamined its purpose and vision. Changes were introduced and debated. All the while, Marie kept a steady hand in balancing the sometimes conflicting interests of HEF and the villagers. Marie always expressed gratitude for all the ideas that were presented, regardless of their perspective.

Throughout her years on the Board, Marie has been a pillar of strength, a center of caring and warm thoughts. Marie has loved the true Elsah spirit and believed that conducting social and other functions at Farley's exemplified that spirit. In carrying on for Marie, HEF will see to it that the large clay pots at the entrance to Farley's will be filled with red, white and blue flowers, welcoming everyone.

VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

Upcoming Activities in the Village of Elsay

Community Contra Dances in Farley's Music Hall, 7:00 P.M. Beginners and children are welcome. Regularly scheduled for the fourth Saturday of the month: April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26, 2011.

"The Growth of the Jersey County Historical Society", Talk by Robert Hartmann, Farley's Music Hall, Friday, April 15, 2011, 7:30 P.M.

"Elsah – Like No Other" Opening Reception for the 2011 Photography Exhibit, Village of Elsay Museum, Saturday, July 16, 2011, 1 to 4:00 P.M.

The Village warmly welcomes new residents...,

...Bronna and Bob Yeates — 2 Palm Street

...Josephine and Glenn Truemann — 5 Dogwood Lane

and "relocating" residents...

...Pauline and Mike Pitchford — 23 LaSalle Street

and we bid farewell to...

...Sara and Robert Rockabrand — 56 Mill Street

...Ann and Mark Badasch — 16 LaSalle Street.

A warm welcome to new members

...Linda Cunningham

...Diane and Jerry Hamlet

...Jersey County Historical Society

...LaSalle Street Café

...Sun Smith-Foret

...Keith Smith

...Barbara and Donald Williams

Historic Elsay Foundation Board for 2011:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Tim Tomlinson
George Provenzano
Blair Smith
Jane Pfeifer

Board members:

Paula Bradley
Brenda Coffman
Teri Cronin Darr
Steve Ira
Inge Mack

Ally Ringhausen
Mary Anne Schmidt
Sun Smith-Foret
Gerald Taetz

ISSN 1552-9002

Elsah History is published by Historic Elsay Foundation.
Subscription to the newsletter is included with membership.
Editor: George Provenzano

Memberships for 2011

Patron: \$25 to \$99
Supporter: \$100 to \$249
Founders' Circle: \$250 and above
James Semple Business Associate: \$100
Please send memberships or letters to:
P.O. Box 117, Elsay, IL 62028

The purposes of Historic Elsay Foundation as stated in the Articles of Incorporation (1971) are:
"...the preservation and enhancement of the historic buildings, houses, architecture and culture of the Village of Elsay, Illinois, the historic areas, the publication of historical brochures, pamphlets, and periodicals regarding the Village, and the establishment of an educational program to inform the general public of the historical and educational value of the Village."



ELSAH HISTORY

Number One

Fall, 1971

About Historic Elsay

Historic Elsay Foundation has had a long beginning, first as a garden club, then, finding its direction in the preservation and enhancement of the historic qualities of the village, as Historic Elsay. In that phase, there was a period of hesitation, during which it was found that meetings did not attract members, who were busy with many other activities. An opportunity for an annual house tour was missed, during the summer of 1970, because of the involvement of members in other projects.

But the need for an organization was too apparent to allow the idea to lie fallow for long, and during the winter of 1970-71, a revision of the organization was designed by a group of interested members. As a result, this past summer "Foundation" was added to our name, and we became a not for profit corporation under Illinois law. Currently we are applying to the IRS for status as an organization contributions to which are tax deductible. We hope this will come about in the near future. Our acceptance as such an organization depends in part on the predominance of our educational activities, of which this newsletter is one.

In a meeting in August, the following directors were appointed: Alma Barnes, Edith Belote, Cyrus A. Bunting, Josephine Copeland, Pat Farmer, Charles Hosmer, Inge Mack, Barbara Swett, and Paul Williams. An attempt was made to draw directors from various groups with an interest in the village, and this balance will be maintained, and we hope improved, at such time as directors are replaced. For the first year, Charles Hosmer will act as president, Paul Williams as vice president and editor, Edith Belote as secretary, and Jo Copeland as treasurer. Members wishing to read the by-laws or articles of incorporation may apply to any of the directors to do so.

What the future holds is not yet clear, and will depend both on our dedication and the amount of support we are able to muster. There is much to do.

Elsah is an unusual historic community, abounding with educational opportunities, and in places badly in need of preservation.

As it turns out, our new headquarters is also our first preservation project. Since the village government has moved its headquarters to the old Elsay school, which has been renamed the Village of Elsay Civic Center, the Village Hall has been made available for lease on extremely generous terms. But we are also responsible for its upkeep, and must take this assignment very seriously. The Hall is one of those buildings absolutely necessary to the historic appearance of the village. And it needs much restoration, including (with Village Board approval) strapping, bracing, reroofing, resheathing, painting, rewiring, and work on the interior. To accomplish this work, we will need much support.

We have already consulted with an architect well versed in preservation projects, and have gained from him a much clearer idea of what needs to be done. Right now, we are inquiring into the costs of the work.

We hope that our program is not all work or all education. The annual Christmas party, which has proved to be such a success in the past, will be continued. We are also planning slide shows, an old movie night, and an annual historic trip. We hope that previous members will respond to our new call for annual dues, and that many new members will join with us. Dues are still \$2 per year for individuals, \$3 for families. Sustaining memberships are \$10 or more. While the newsletter is included with individual and family memberships, sustaining members are also given free all leaflets published. A form for joining or renewing will be found inserted in this newsletter. It can be sent with dues to P. O. Box 117, Elsay, Illinois, 62028, or given to any of the directors. Please join with us. We need everyone's support.

ELSAH HISTORY, published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter issues by Historic Elsay Foundation, Paul O. Williams, editor. Subscription is with membership. Send to P. O. Box 117, Elsay, Illinois 62028. Rates: individual, \$2; family, \$3; sustaining, \$10 or more. Sample copies available on request.

Elsah Quarry

As part of its new oral history program, HEF is interviewing elder Elsah citizens about their experiences in its history. The first to appear in a newsletter is one with Dewey McDow, who was born and raised in Elsah, who built the bungalow he still lives in, in Elsah, in the early 20's, and who is in retirement after many years work on the railroad. The Western Whiting Mill operated a quarry in Elsah from 1903 to 1928. Mr. McDow worked there during the earlier years of its operation, and gives his recollections in the following interview:

Interviewer: Did you ever work in the Elsah quarry?
Mr. McDow: Yes, sir.

Int.: When was that?

D. M.: We did that work when we was kids going to school in the summertime. Didn't have nothing to do. In summertime in them days there was nothing to do.

Int.: What did you do?

D. M.: Break rocks with a sledge hammer.

Int.: That's hot work.

D. M.: Yeah. We got fifteen cents an hour for it. Ten hours a day. A dollar and a half a day. I fired two boilers down there. Had about five or six engines on them, twelve hours a night for two dollars. Two big boilers. You had your head in the fire box all night long to keep them going.

Int.: Did you use coal?

D. M.: Yeah, coal.

Int.: Did that come on the railroad or by river?

D. M.: Shipped it in on the railroad. Slack coal. Yes, sir.

Int.: I've heard that Walter Cresswell worked there.

D. M.: He was foreman in the quarry there.

Int.: Do you remember anything about blasting down there?

D. M.: Yes. Willie Rister used to run that steam drill for years, he did. Bring the bits up here to the blacksmith shop and sharpen them. The drill bits.

Int.: Was that Tonkinson's?

D. M.: Tonkinson's blacksmith shop.

Int.: He had charge of the blasting?

D. M.: Willie Rister drilled the holes and Walter Cresswell loaded them. Put dynamite down there. Some they lit the fuses, and some they used batteries. Pull a battery up and let it go.

Int.: I bet that made a roar.

D. M.: Yeah. It sure did. I've seen it throw rocks right over the top of this hill over here in the early days.

Int.: Did they ever hit anything with them?

D. M.: No. They never hit anything that I know of.

They'd come over here and light in the streets or some-

thing like that.

Int.: How'd the people like that?

D. M.: Well, they couldn't do nothing about it. In them days they was working there for a living. You know. Nothing else to do in them days. You know a dollar and a half a day was a lot of money in them days. Fifty years ago.

Int.: How often did they blast?

D. M.: Two or three times a day. Have some great big rocks three or four times bigger than that stove, and put two or three sticks of dynamite on there and put some mud on top of it, then put a fuse on it, and light her off and get away. Maybe ten or fifteen at a time. Somebody would just touch a match to it and light it and that powder would go right down to it. Give you a chance. The fuse was made to burn a foot a minute, or something like that.

Int.: How did they do the drilling?

D. M.: They'd start from the top and work down, then shoot off eighteen feet or so at a time. You've seen where those trees are growing halfway up the side of the quarry? Well, that's where they stopped when they quit working.

Int.: Then the drill bits were eighteen feet long?

D. M.: No, they'd start off with a short one, you see, then when it run out they'd take it off and put a longer one in, you see. Then they'd shoot off a ledge, maybe ten foot back—shoot it right off. In Grafton, at one time they drilled by hand. Just stand there and keep turning, put a little water in, and turn.

Int.: Did they use a machine in Elsah?

D. M.: Oh, yes. They had a steam drill here. Pipe steam up on the top of that bluff. Then when air come in they had one of these air hammers.

Int.: Then you broke up the smaller pieces with a sledge hammer?

D. M.: Yeah. Until they were about the size of a loaf of bread. If they were too big they wouldn't go through the crusher.

Int.: Did that crush them into powder?

D. M. No, just crush it into gravel. Then they'd run it through a big screen and different sizes would go in different bins. They had dust, then quarter inch, half inch, and three quarters. They used it for concrete, just the way they do the rock from Grafton quarry today. Just crushed it the same way. There was too much flint in it, though. Flint don't make good concrete, you know.

Int.: So that helped to close down the quarry?

D. M.: Yes, that's right. The state wouldn't pass it.

Int.: Did they make whitewash with it?

D. M.: Well, they made whiting, or putty, out of it, and stuff like that. And that was all shipped out on the railroad.

Int.: Did they ship any at all on the river?

D. M.: No.

Int.: Were most of the men that worked in the quarry from Elsah?

D. M.: Everybody was from Elsah.

Int.: Did any men move to Elsah to work there?

D. M.: Ch, yeah, everybody moved here because it

was handy and they had no roads in here, really, in them days.

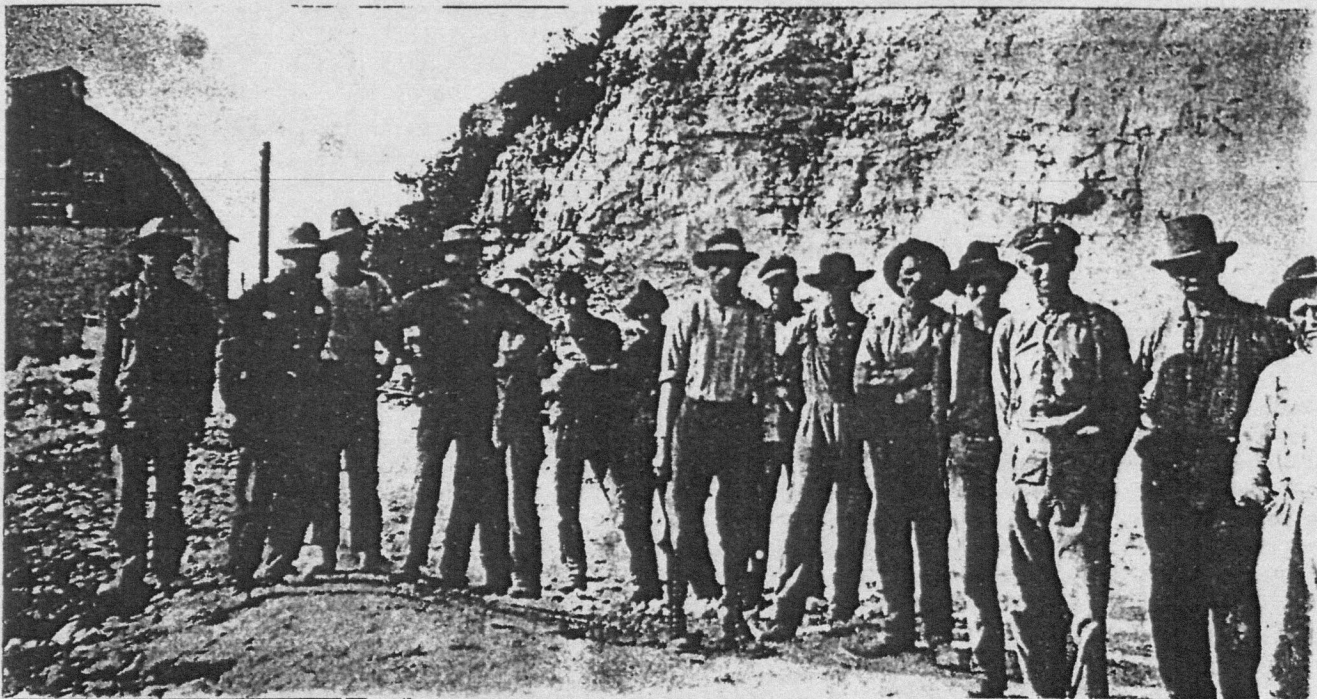
Int.: Then they moved out when the quarry closed?

D.M.: Yeah. Some of them did. Some worked at Grafton or around Grafton. You know there was no-

thing to do here then.

Int.: Thank you very much for talking with me about the old days in the quarry.

D.M.: You're welcome.



Elsah workers pose in the quarry. The quarry building in the background was originally built as the Knapp and Goodrich flour mill in 1857. Later it was the home of Enos Doron's celebrated Silver Moon flour before being converted for quarry uses by the Western Whiting Company. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Walter Cresswell.

News Notes

Log Cabin Uncovered

The construction of apartments at the far end of the Elsah Hills subdivision has resulted in the taking down of an old white frame house in bad condition behind the apartment site. The razing process revealed that inside the walls of one section of the house was a log cabin, which formed a core structure around which, as is so often the case in the rural midwest, the rest of the structure was built. It formed an interior of fourteen by sixteen feet, and was built over a native stone basement still in good condition. The brick and stone arch over the basement stairway was in fine shape. Almost all the logs were oak, both white and black. One short one was sycamore. Although the logs were squared, fitted, and pegged, some bark still adhered to the horizontal edges. Carol Belden, owner of the structure, has given HEF a log, with pegs in place, as an item for our museum. Initial speculation puts the age of the cabin at considerably more than a hundred years. Further investigations will be reported in our next newsletter.

A Course Involving Elsah

A half course project in research and writing local history, using Elsah as its material, will be offered for the first time this fall at Principia College. This will provide students a chance to do original research, which might lead to publication; will teach research techniques, and will incidentally greatly speed the rate at which new information about Elsah is uncovered. The present instructor is Paul Williams. With continued interest, the course will be offered each quarter.

A Gift to HEF

The Elsah Volunteer Emergency Corps was recently disbanded, their work now being taken over by the emergency corps of Alton and Grafton, and by the Quarry-Elsah Volunteer Firefighters' Association. In closing out their funds, the Emergency Corps donated to several organizations, including Historic Elsah Foundation, which received a check for \$55.63. We are very grateful for this gift, which has been put toward the publication of this newsletter.

Publications Planned

Elsah History, the newsletter of Historic Elsalh Foundation, gets underway with this issue. It will appear four times a year, with occasional supplements, and will contain news and information of the organization, as well as short historical articles about the area and reprinted materials.

In addition, leaflets are planned. These will be issued as conditions permit. They will be of no predetermined size, but will take their dimensions from the subject they cover. Thus they may range from a folded sheet of four pages to a considerable pamphlet. It is hoped that they will provide a continual flow of new information on subjects related to the past of the Elsalh area. Leaflets will be free to sustaining members.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Mr. W. Philip Cotton for advice on the restoration of the Village Hall. We are also grateful to James Schmidt for the design which heads the first page of this newsletter¹, and which we will use elsewhere as a symbol of the organization. Thanks also are due to Gene Shultz for printing the newsletter, and for the many valuable suggestions he made in the process.

Elsah in California

This past summer, Charles Hosmer had the opportunity to interview Mr. Byron Brock in Vallejo, California. Mr. Brock was born in the Brock-Belote house, on LaSalle Street, Elsalh, in 1893. His family moved to Washington when he was four, and returned in 1904 for a visit. Although Mr. Brock has not seen Elsalh since, his memories of the area were vivid as recorded on tape for our oral history collection. He also had some old Elsalh pictures, which he allowed us to copy. One especially, of the waterfront, is a valuable document.

Another Elsalh native now living in California is Mrs. Beulah Carpenter, granddaughter of Elsalh's diarist and inventor, William McNair. She has given much valuable information and pictures of Elsalh's past.

Koster Site

Under the direction of Professor Stuart Struever, of Northwestern University, the Koster expedition, working near Eldred, Illinois, has progressed greatly this past summer, its second full summer of operation. Since the dig is only about a forty-five minute drive from Elsalh, it is a good place to visit during the summer—next summer now.

The Foundation for Illinois Archaeology has been based in Kampsville for several years. A growing organization, it promises to enhance greatly the archaeological knowledge of the area. At Kampsville, a museum open to the public, as well as four field labs,

constitute a considerable part of the activity in the town each summer.

Professor Struever welcomes visitors and provides guides for them at the Koster site. The foundation also welcomes and needs financial support from interested citizens. As the most intense probing into the prehistoric past in our area, it certainly deserves the aid of all who would preserve our history. Friends of the Koster Expedition receive newsletters about the progress of the dig.

During the winter months, the Kampsville archaeological museum has been transferred to Carrollton, under the auspices of the local chamber of commerce. It may be visited there.

Museum Planned

The Village of Elsalh is planning to use the former upper room of the Elsalh School, now part of the Village of Elsalh Civic Center, as a museum for materials of historical interest relating to Elsalh's past.

The new Civic Center is now being refurbished and repainted. On volunteer Saturdays, complete with a fish fry, a number of villagers contributed their time and muscle in interior painting and cleaning up. Our picture below shows Mayor Edward Keller putting in the upper room in preparation for painting.

